

until August, when the panic was beyond control. Even Mr. Bryan's fountain pen cannot rewrite history.

THE COMMONER reiterates its statement that the Unconditional Repeal Bill which Mr. Cleveland forced through by the use of patronage was a republican measure, and for proof it points to the bill itself. Below will be found in parallel columns a bill introduced by Senator Sherman and the bill introduced by Mr. Wilson at the request of Mr. Cleveland:

Fifty-second Congress, first session. S. 3423, introduced in the senate July 14, 1892, by Mr. Sherman.

A bill for the repeal of certain parts of the act directing the purchase of silver bullion and the issue of treasury notes thereon, and for other purposes, approved July 14, 1890. Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, That so much of the act entitled "An act directing the purchase of silver bullion and the issue of treasury notes thereon, and for other purposes," approved July 14, 1890, as directs the secretary of the treasury to purchase, from time to time, silver bullion to the aggregate amount of 4,500,000 ounces, or so much thereof as may be offered in each month, at the market price thereof, and to issue in payment for such purchases of silver bullion treasury notes of the United States; is hereby repealed, to take effect on the 1st day of January, 1893; Provided, That this act shall not in any way affect or impair or change the legal qualities, redemption or use of the treasury notes issued under said act.

Fifty-third Congress, first session. H. R. 1, introduced in the house August 11, 1893, by Mr. Wilson.

A bill to repeal a part of an act, approved July 14, 1890, entitled "An act directing the purchase of silver bullion and the issue of treasury notes thereon, and for other purposes."

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, That so much of the act approved July 14, 1890, entitled "An act directing the purchase of silver bullion and issue of treasury notes thereon, and for other purposes," as directs the secretary of the treasury to purchase, from time to time, silver bullion to the aggregate amount of 4,500,000 ounces, or so much thereof as may be offered in each month, at the market price thereof, not exceeding \$1 for 371.25 grains of pure silver, and to issue in payment for such purchases treasury notes of the United States, be, and the same is hereby repealed; but this repeal shall not impair or in any manner affect the legal tender quality of the standard silver dollars heretofore coined; and the faith and credit of the United States are hereby pledged to maintain the parity of the standard gold and silver coins of the United States at the present legal ratio, or such other ratio as may be established by law.

A comparison of these bills will convince anyone that Mr. Cleveland adopted Mr. Sherman's bill, and Mr. Sherman was not in the habit of introducing Democratic measures.

The case might be submitted upon this evidence, but additional evidence is furnished by the vote in the House and Senate.

A larger percentage of the republicans than of the Democrats voted for the measure urged by Mr. Cleveland. The republicans are not in the habit of supporting Democratic measures, and yet in spite of the natural disposition of the republicans to antagonize a Democratic administration, and in spite of the natural disposition of Democrats to support a Democratic administration, Mr. Cleveland in his fight for unconditional repeal received more support from the republicans than from his own party. This fact alone would be sufficient to support

THE COMMONER's charge; certainly, the proof brought from the two sources above mentioned establishes the proposition.

But this is not all. When the next Democratic national convention met the Democrats repudiated the position taken by Mr. Cleveland because it was a republican position and inconsistent with Democratic principles and Democratic record, and the convention did this in spite of all the great corporations and in spite of nearly all the great daily papers.

In making its denial the World relies upon a garbled extract from the Democratic platform of 1892. That platform denounced the Sherman law as a cowardly makeshift and declared that the Democrats "hold to the use of both gold and silver as the standard money of the country and to the coinage of both gold and silver without discrimination against either metal or charge for mintage." A makeshift is an inferior thing that is used until something better can be secured. To denounce the Sherman law as a cowardly makeshift would have been absurd if the convention had not pointed out the better thing, namely, bimetallism. The Democratic party never demanded unconditional repeal; it never approved of the President's plan of putting the country on a gold basis. No sensible or sane man could have construed the platform of 1892 so as to support Mr. Cleveland's course. Mr. Cleveland made no attempt to carry out the platform; he made no effort to conform to the wishes of the men who voted for him. He was apparently under some secret obligation to the financiers and proceeded to carry out their plans in utter disregard of the pledges made by his platform. While a majority of the men who voted for him believed in "the coinage of both gold and silver without discrimination against either metal or charge for mintage," he selected a cabinet, every member of which was opposed to that doctrine. He consulted with the republican financiers more than he did with Democratic representatives, and he rewarded with lucrative positions several congressmen and senators who were persuaded by him to betray their constituents. He even promised some that he would favor silver legislation as soon as he could get the Sherman law repealed, and yet, at the request of New York bankers, he vetoed the Seignorage Bill, which was supported by a majority of the Democrats in both the House and Senate. Many of the Democrats who had been persuaded to vote for the repeal bill, learned to their surprise that Mr. Cleveland did not intend that anything should be done to rehabilitate silver.

Facts are, indeed, stubborn things and the World knows these facts because it was in the thick of the fight and was as active an organ as the money power had during that memorable contest.

If the World desires to defend Mr. Cleveland it can do so, but it ought to do so on the ground that it thinks the republicans were right and the Democrats wrong, not on the ground that Mr. Cleveland supported a Democratic measure.

The World gives Mr. Hill credit for valiant service in aiding the passage of that re-

publican measure. Yes, the country well remembers how the interests of Wall Street brought about a reconciliation between Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Hill, who was supposed to be Mr. Cleveland's most bitter political enemy. When the financiers said dance, the Senator from New York chose the President for his partner and they waltzed together until the bill became a law. No contest through which this country has passed better illustrated the almost irresistible power of organized capital. The banks coerced the borrowers and the desks of the members were yellow with telegrams that poured in by concerted action from the money centers. The Democratic party was first betrayed and then disrupted in order to carry out the financial plans of men who were ready to leave any party or to join any party according as their pecuniary interests would be advanced.

Facts are stubborn things.

## Not a Democratic Paper.

In the spring of 1898 the Chicago Chronicle received a letter from one of its readers who was somewhat skeptical in regard to its Democracy, and in endeavoring to reassure him the proprietor said: "The Chronicle is a Democratic newspaper, and expects to remain such. The quarrels of 1896 are over, and, so far as the Chronicle is concerned, they are not to be renewed."

On March 16 of the present year, the Chronicle said editorially: "The Chronicle is not 'a Democratic organ,' it is an independent newspaper, neither owning nor admitting allegiance to any political organization." It is not known just when the change took place, but it is gratifying to be assured that the Chronicle no longer assumes to speak for those who admit allegiance to the Democratic party. It is the custom of the gold Democratic and Republican papers to quote from such papers as the Chronicle and describe them as Democratic. The Democratic party ought not to be held responsible for their utterances nor should their editorials be accepted as reflecting Democratic sentiment.

## Recalls Jackson's Time.

William B. Ridgely, a representative of the famous Illinois family of that name, has succeeded Mr. Dawes as comptroller of the currency. An interesting statement relating to the new Comptroller was printed in the newspapers under date of September 21. It was as follows:

William Barre Ridgely, whose appointment as comptroller of the treasury was announced today, placed himself on record as opposed to the sub-treasury system and in favor of a United States bank.

The first, he said tied up money when it was most needed by the commerce of the country, and the other contributed to easy circulation at all times, thereby tending to ease financial stringency.

"The gold standard act," said Mr. Ridgely, "is not perfect. There are a good many loopholes in it. But I don't know whether it will be remedied. I should like to see the greenbacks retired, too, but there does not seem to be any immediate prospect